



The Braun Budget

**A PLAN TO DEFUSE AMERICA'S
INFLATION BOMB AND
UNLEASH PROSPERITY**





I'M GOING TO LET YOU IN ON A D.C. SECRET

Are you ready?

Career politicians don't care about our national debt.

They don't care about out-of-control spending.

They don't even really care about inflation.

I'll give you a moment to collect your jaw from the floor.

That's right: on both sides of the Capitol and both sides of the aisle, when it comes time to actually pump the brakes on runaway spending, that's when the excuses start.

That's why I left the business I spent my life building in my hometown to come to D.C. - I knew if we didn't take action to get this train back on the tracks, we'd all be paying for it.

Well, now we are. With 40-year high inflation and record high gas and groceries.

We need a plan that's strong enough to really right the ship, and gradual enough to do it without hitting the rocks.

This is that plan. And because Congress has failed to do the budget they're required to by law, this plan can get a vote on the floor of the Senate.

If you support it, let your Representative and Senators know.

Mike Braun



THE PROBLEM: 10 THINGS TO KNOW

When you hear “mandatory” spending, you might think of entitlement programs like Social Security. But there are over \$800 billion worth of government programs considered “mandatory spending” that have nothing to do with Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, or even public pensions or food security.

1. Our cumulative national debt tops \$30.58 trillion dollars.
2. Each citizen's share of the national debt is \$92,000.
3. Last year we spent \$2.8 trillion more than we brought in.
4. Last year, the United States government spent a total of \$562 billion on “debt service” – basically interest payments, like on a credit card. That's over half of what we spend on defense. By 2029, we'll spend more on interest than we do on the military.
5. We have a spending problem, not a revenue problem: the Trump tax cuts brought in record revenue.
6. Our current inflation crisis is worse than other countries because of our out-of-control spending problem, especially Biden's \$1.9 trillion “American Rescue Plan Act.”
7. Federal spending is broken up into “discretionary” and “mandatory” spending. Most people think “mandatory” means entitlement programs, but for years career politicians have moved their pet projects from the “discretionary” bucket into “mandatory.” Of our 972 “mandatory” baseline spending items, 645 of them are unrelated to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, public pensions, or food security.
8. Republicans and Democrats always talk about equalizing defense spending and non-defense spending. As long as those two things are equal, both parties vote for massive spending bills. But “defense parity” is an illusion. Congress has moved so much discretionary spending into the “mandatory” category that the deck is stacked on the side of non-defense spending. For example, the White House's Office of Management and Budget estimates that over the next 10 years, non-defense spending will increase by \$2.09 trillion, while defense will only increase by \$161 billion.
9. By 2031, \$7 of every \$10 the government spends will be on mandatory programs and debt service.
10. Congress is supposed to pass a budget resolution and 12 spending bills every year. The last time they got it done on time was 1996.



WE NEED A SOLUTION TO

UNLEASH AMERICAN POTENTIAL

&

BALANCE THE BUDGET

With my plan, we'll will **take the boot off the neck of American job creators** and **unleash growth**.

We'll **balance the budget** in 10 years and save \$4.5 trillion we don't have to spend.

My plan doesn't touch Medicare or Social Security.

We'll **stop out-of-control spending** by putting "mandatory" spending that has nothing to do with entitlements back on the chopping block.

We'll make sure you can **keep more of the money you earn** by making the Trump tax cuts **permanent**.

We'll bring back a culture that **values work** with work requirements on government benefits for those who can work but don't.

And, most importantly, my plan **stops piling debt on our kids and grandkids**.



PRINCIPLES OF THE BRAUN BUDGET

Record high gas prices. 9.1% inflation. A national debt soaring toward \$45 trillion. Now is the time to get serious. We need to right the fiscal ship and return to what we had before COVID: the best economy in history.

Here's how to do it.

PUT AMERICA ON THE PATH TO A BALANCED BUDGET

The Braun Budget balances expenses and revenues over 10 years and saves over \$4.5 trillion, **without raising taxes**. We can do this with my *Maximizing America's Prosperity (MAP) Act*, which caps total spending and slowly dials it back to 17.5% of potential GDP (the 50-year rolling average of revenue, regardless of tax policy). We don't have an income problem, we have a spending problem: let's get real about fixing it.

SLASH ANNUAL OVERSPENDING

Republicans want more defense spending, and Democrats want more social spending. Over time they've struck a deal that both of these will increase as long as they stay about equal. But here's the catch: Democrats have been moving social spending programs that have nothing to do with Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid into the "mandatory" – or automatic – spending column. The result is \$30 trillion in debt. My budget moves non-entitlement, non-defense "mandatory" spending rightfully back to the discretionary side of the ledger. Congress should have to review these programs that have been on auto-pilot for years. My budget also requires Congress to review \$432 billion worth of government programs that expired between 1980 and 2021.



PROTECT SENIORS

The budget would extend the life of the Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid trust funds, ensuring that the millions of seniors who rely on this program for their health care can continue to count on it. The Braun Budget also prioritizes eliminating billions in improper payments.

UNLEASH PROSPERITY

American small businesses are being crushed by inflation and government incompetence, and D.C.'s response is to hike their taxes? The Braun Budget makes Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Trump Tax Cuts) permanent. The Trump tax cuts led to the greatest increase in wages for individuals and families in recent memory, led to new investment in the U.S., and record revenues for government coffers.

FIGHT THE INFLATION CRISIS

In March of 2021, the Biden administration rammed through \$2 trillion of partisan spending that even liberal economists said would make inflation worse. Since then, we've seen that those funds have been wasted on ski-slopes, luxury hotels, ballparks, and social activist education for kids. The Braun Budget pulls back over \$100 billion of the remaining *American Rescue Plan Act* (ARPA) funds that had nothing to do with COVID in the first place and kicked off this Inflation Bomb.



DEFEND THE HOMELAND

National defense is the most important thing the federal government does. Funding our defense department adequately is a top priority in the Braun Budget, to keep Americans safe in an increasing complicated and technological world. The budget requires the Pentagon continue to submit to financial audits to ensure resources are properly allocated.

PROTECT CONSERVATIVE VALUES

As Congressional Democrats and President Biden have tried to remove protections against taxpayer-funded abortion such as the Hyde Amendment, the Braun Budget protects the sanctity of life and defends religious freedom.

DEREGULATE FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

We need to get the government boot off the neck of our economy. My budget includes the “one-in, two-out” regulation policy, and reverses all of the Biden administration’s permit cancellations. This budget reinstates Keystone Pipeline. America must return to our place as the world’s top crude oil and natural gas producer.

SECURE THE BORDER

Fentanyl overdose is now the number one killer of people ages 18 to 45. The cost of this loss to our communities can’t be calculated. By securing the border, this budget fights back against the drugs spilling into our communities and illegal immigration destroying our national sovereignty.

ENDORSEMENTS

The Braun Budget is endorsed by the following groups:

ALEC Action

American Commitment

Americans for Prosperity

America First Works

American Consumer Institute

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR)

Citizens Against Government Waste

Foundation for Government
Accountability

FreedomWorks

Heritage Action

National Taxpayers Union

R Street Institute

Students for Life Action

Taxpayer Protection Alliance

Unity Above Self in America

Texas Public Policy Foundation

States Trust

“In just short two years, the socialist Democrats lead by Biden, Schumer, and Pelosi have turned our economy upside down with outrageous deficit spending and wasteful policies. Now, Bidenflation is at a 40-year high and hardworking Americans are feeling the pain in all aspects of life. It is time for strong conservatives to take a stand and push back against these failed policies. Senator Mike Braun is leading the charge to relieve the pain Americans are feeling. The Braun budget brings real relief by cutting spending and not raising taxes, all in an effort to combat the Democrats from causing more rampant inflation.” – Matt Schlapp, CPAC Chairman

“Sen. Braun's budget is a blueprint for rolling back excessive deficit spending, providing accountability, and growing our economy once again.” - Garrett Bess, Vice President of Heritage Action

“We applaud Senator Braun for putting forward a budget that would move our country toward a path of fiscal sustainability. Lawmakers have a basic duty to put forward a fiscal plan for our country. Budgeting is about tradeoffs. If other lawmakers have a different vision for our country, they should put forward their budgets showing their priorities. Then, Congress should debate and enact a real governing budget, something they have failed to do for years.” - Maya MacGuineas, President of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget

“We desperately need selfless and bold leadership in Washington to empower individuals and pare back the government. Senator Braun's budget does exactly this by outlining a positive vision for the future of our nation through free markets, decentralization of power, and choice.” - Adam Brandon, President, FreedomWorks

“Senator Braun offers a bold and thoughtful plan for correcting the federal budget's wayward course. His focus on accelerating economic growth, restraining federal spending growth, and permanently extending the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act, is EXACTLY what we must do if we are to get our country's fiscal house in order. The America First Policy Institute commends Senator Braun and his plan to restore economic integrity in our federal budget.” - James Carter, America First Policy Institute